

## Message Text

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E:WDROGERS

S- MR. PASSAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, XM, GT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA,  
JUNE 10, 1976

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES MET WITH  
SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ON  
JUNE 10 SHORTLY BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FROM  
THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN SANTIAGO. PRINCIPAL  
SUBJECTS OF THE CONVERSATION WERE THE SHIPPING DISPUTE,  
EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION, BELIZE, AND THE NON-ALIGNED  
CONFERENCE.

2. THE SECRETARY AND MOLINA AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO  
MAJOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GUATEMALA. MOLINA  
RAISED THE DELTA-FLOMERCA QUESTION AS A SMALL PROBLEM  
THAT CONTINUED. ROGERS RECALLED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD  
ARRANGED FOR HOLDING OFF ACTION AGAINST GUATEMALA AT  
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MOLINA'S REQUEST BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

PROBLEMS. IN DISCUSSING THE SHIPPING QUESTION, MOLINA MENTIONED THAT A RAILROAD (WHICH HE CALLED A "DRY CANAL") ACROSS GUATEMALA WOULD EASE THE PROBLEM OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

3. MOLINA INDICATED THAT THE GREATEST PROBLEM GUATEMALA FACES AT THIS TIME CONTINUES TO BE RECONSTRUCTION FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE. HE EXPRESSED WARM GRATITUDE OF GUATEMALA FOR THE MEDICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. ROGERS NOTED THAT GUATEMALA HAD, IN ADDITION, GOOD ACCESS TO THE PRIVATE CAPITAL MARKET. MOLINA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GUATEMALAN ESTIMATE FOR RECONSTRUCTION COST WAS OVER A BILLION DOLLARS. THE SECRETARY PROMISED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE PROBLEM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. MOLINA ADDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE BEING HELPFUL AND THAT VENEZUELA HAD GIVEN GUATEMALA FORTY-ONE MILLION DOLLARS. HE SAID EVEN THE BRITISH HAD CONTRIBUTED.

4. ON BELIZE, THE SECRETARY REPORTED HIS IMPRESSION FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH CROSLAND THAT THE BRITISH WERE WILLING TO GIVE UP SOME TERRITORY, ALTHOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS THE GUATEMALANS WANTED. MOLINA'S RESPONSE WAS THAT GUATEMALA WANTED IT ALL, BUT THAT SOMETHING AT LEAST WAS NEEDED TO SAVE FACE BEFORE THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE. THE SECRETARY MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF MEASURING THE TWO HUNDRED-MILE LIMIT, WHICH MOLINA SAID WAS MORE A BRITISH THAN A GUATEMALAN INTEREST.

5. MOLINA SAID THAT GUATEMALA WOULD MEET WITH THE BRITISH JUNE 15 IN NEW YORK AND PRESENT TO THEM A PROPOSAL. HE GAVE THE SECRETARY A COPY OF THE PAPER, WHICH PROVIDES FOR A JOINT COUNCIL OF THREE GUATEMALANS AND THREE FROM BELIZE. IN ANSWER TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, MOLINA SAID THAT IF THERE WERE A THREE-THREE SPLIT ON SOME QUESTION THE JOINT COUNCIL WOULD PRESUMABLY REPORT TO GOVERNMENTS. HE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A SEVENTH NEUTRAL MEMBER, POSSIBLY AN AMERICAN.

6. MOLINA EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROPOSAL IS SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE GUATEMALANS HAD AGREED WITH THE BRITISH THAT SETTING THE BOUNDARIES SHOULD COME AT A LATER STAGE. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE GUATEMALAN PROPOSAL WOULD GIVE THE GOG A VETO OVER ACTIONS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. MOLINA COUNTERED THAT THERE WAS A POSITIVE SIDE, THE EXPENSE OF SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS THAT GUATEMALA WOULD BEAR FOR BPT/F.

7. MOLINA SUGGESTED THAT THE ISSUE MIGHT COME UP IN THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NON-ALIGNED

WOULD TRY TO STEAMROLLER THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP SHOULD KNOW THE ISSUES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THEIR MEETING IN COLOMBO.

8. FOLLOWING MOLINA'S EXPRESSION OF THANKS FOR THE MEETING, THE SECRETARY NOTED HIS BRIEF BUT VERY WARM VISIT TO GUATEMALA AND SAID THAT GUATEMALA COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON THE FIRM FRIENDSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES. KISSINGER

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